

REMARKS

Submitted herewith is an English translation of the priority document (Japanese Application No. 8-319502) to perfect the claim to priority in this application. As indicated in the Response filed on March 29, 2004, the November 29, 1996 priority date of the present application is earlier than the filing date of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,623 to Bowman et al.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, based on the remarks submitted in the Response filed March 29, 2004 and the submission of this English translation, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections in this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4396US1.

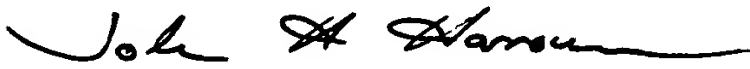
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is

hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4396US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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